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Johnson Enters Dispute Over CIA-Student Link

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Review of Threats To 'Integrity' Set

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WASHINGTON (AP) — President Johnson stepped directly Wednesday into the controversy over the Central Intelligence Agency's undercover payments to the National Student Association. He ordered a review of any government activities that might endanger the integrity of U.S. educational groups.

The President also told key officials to draft a policy to guide government agencies "in their relationship to the international activities of American education organizations."

NSA leaders declined to comment on Johnson's order, announced by Undersecretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach.

The President's action came one day after officials had acknowledged the CIA for more than a decade had supplied substantial funds to the NSA, the nation's largest college student group.

Private Groups

Katzenbach's statement left open the possibility the review would extend also into government subsidies of private organizations outside the academic field.

"The President recognizes the great need of America's private organizations to participate in the world community," Katzenbach's statement said.

Katzenbach said other countries subsidized such activities, adding, "He (Johnson) has asked me to explore means for assuring that U.S. organizations play their proper and vital role."

Turning specifically to educational groups, the statement said: "The President believes strongly that the integrity and independence of the educational community must be preserved. He has directed a careful re-

view of any government activities that may endanger this integrity and independence."

Johnson directed Katzenbach, CIA Director Richard Helms and Secretary of Welfare John W. Gardner "to formulate a policy which will provide necessary guidance for government agencies in their relationship to the international activities of American educational organizations," said Katzenbach's statement issued by State Department Press Officer Robert J. McClosky.

He said CIA involvement in student groups "casts a stigma on otherwise valuable and worthwhile organizations."

In another development, an NSA official said an American exchange student had been whisked out of Poland just before the group's link with the CIA came to light.

The student, Roger Pulver, 22, Culver City, Calif., was attending the University of Krakow when NSA cabled him to attend an emergency meeting in London at once, said Robert Cutner, the NSA official.

A Washington newspaper, The Evening Star, reported the CIA has supplied millions of dollars to three student organizations in addition to NSA. It identified the three others as the U.S. Youth Council, with headquarters in New York; the World Assembly of Youth in Brussels, Belgium; and the International Student Conference in Leiden, the Netherlands.

Intelligence Work

The Evening Star said members of the four student organizations carried on a limited amount of intelligence work for the CIA, making confidential reports on overseas youth activities and on foreign youth leaders visiting the United States.

CIA funds for the four groups were channeled through foundations, the newspaper said. It identified the principal donor as

the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs.

In New York, Arthur A. Houghton Jr., who started the foundation and serves as its president, said he does "not intend to answer these allegations."

He issued a statement saying he was proud of the foundation's record, and continuing:

"It has ... never placed conditions on the grants that it has made ... I have never ... disclosed my contributions to any organization. I do not intend to do so now."

"If at any time I have cooperated with our government as a citizen on matters affecting the national interest, it is my affair."

Link Denied

After a day of discussion in New York, U.S. Youth Council President James D. Fowler said his group has "no relationship to the CIA," and "no reason to believe any such relationship has existed in the past."

Fowler's statement attacked Ramparts magazine, claiming it had failed to document its charges that the CIA "had infiltrated and subverted the world of American student leaders."

The two groups with headquarters in Europe are confederations of youth organizations in Western and nonaligned nations. These two organizations devote most of their efforts to competing with Iron Curtain youth groups.

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